



Mid Alabama
Corvette Club



MACC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September -2005

www.midalcorvette.com

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President & Executive Board Member:
Arlene Johnson
arlene.johnson@bellsouth.com

1st Vice President, Show Chair & Executive
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Ronnie@besha.org

Secretary & Executive Board Member:
Cathy Crapet
cathycrapet@aol.com

Treasurer & Executive Board Member:
Bill Ringler
billringlr@aol.com

Past President & Executive Board Member:
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robmusicconrad@aol.com

Membership:
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smathews13@bellsouth.net

NCRS Ambassador:
Fred Atkins
LT4@Bham.RR.com

NCM Ambassador:
Jim Willis
jdwillis@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Editor:
Beth Carter
bethcarter@charter.net

Social Chair:

Suzan Touchton
stouchton@bellsouth.net

Interim Web Master: Alan Jones
(Luckie & Company)

A Note from the Crew Chief

By Arlene Johnson

MACC Attack Makes Peace at the Corvette Summit

The worldwide Internet sure has changed all our lives - including the speed in which people find the local Corvette Club and receive their daily news. I receive multiple inquiries each week from people viewing our web-site. It has become one of the primary resources for new members. Last month on Ebay, I purchased a June/July 1972 version of Corvette News. In the back was a listing of all the Corvette Clubs in the U.S - there were 271 mid-year 1972. There were six in Alabama and only one in states like Mississippi, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Rhode Island. The name of the Birmingham club at that time was the *All-American City Corvette Club*. Today it would take an entire volume of the Corvette News to list all the Corvette Clubs in America and the world.

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A Note from the Crew Chief



(Continued)

I do a lot of research on the Internet and was recently fishing for topics relating to club dynamics - trying to pick up a few tips about nurturing programs and events, improving camaraderie and sharing common interests. In doing so, I learned a bit about the Society for Bright People (aka Mensa).....*wonder what they squabble about?* Could it be who has the highest IQ or maybe the lowest? Then there was the Nasty Girl Club....yes, there was such a thing!!! I'll pass on that one, but some of the single male club members may be interested!!!! Since there was a club for Tall People, I wasn't surprised to find a Small Dog Social Club. Some of the other more interesting groups were: Smokin' Scouts Diesel Club, Virtual Super Group – I think that's a cyber club – no worry of club meeting location for them, the Homebrew Club and AAA may need to have a joint meeting some time, and then I found the Behavior Analysis Club. Without a doubt very leader of every other club needs to attend a few of their meetings.

The **MACC Attack** nickname now coined with our club members who descend on another's car show is a most interesting nomenclature. I don't know if many of you realize how many members are actually in our club....but the recent additions **makes** it close to 100. Can you imagine all 75+ member's Corvettes in one continuous caravan? Meeting and event participation is getting greater (now usually over 40) and new members are joining every month. All that makes it even more important to create innovation in our activities, keep **peace** among the masses, and make good choices for meeting locations.

Speaking of meeting locations: a few great spots for the Fall thanX to Cathy Crapet and a suggestion by Bettie Torme.....the Fish Market off of 280 in the Greystone area for a week-day dinner meeting (on 9/20), and then Lloyds on Hwy 280 in Meadowbrook area for a Sunday evening dinner meeting (10/16) before heading to the Haunted House in Leeds. We're back **at the** Neighborhood Sports Grille in Trussville in November (11/20) and working on the Christmas party/event for December 2nd – **perhaps** at the Inverness Country Club for the last year since plans are underway for a condominium/business complex in its place. Maybe we can have the next **Corvette Summit** there in 2006!!!

Nominating Committee for 2006 Officers

by Arlene Johnson

The nominating committee is appointed by the Club President in September of each year and according to our bylaws is supposed to consist of two current Board Members and three club members in good standing. Rob Conrad and Cathy Crapet from the 2005 Board accepted this role as did club members Jim Willis, Kathie Jones, and Terry Matthews. This committee will seek and accept nominees for the coming year for the following positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

The positions of Social Chairperson, Membership Chairperson, Newsletter Editor, and 2nd Vice President are typically appointed by the incoming President. People to fill these positions are also being sought at this time for the 2006 term.

There are many capable people in our club – please consider a role in defining the MACC's 2006 year and making a difference. The committee will convey their recommendations to the club in October, official voting will take place in November and the new officers will be inducted at the Christmas Party and begin serving in January.

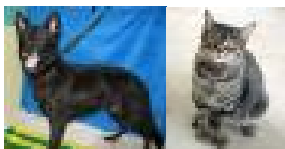
Reminder for Vettes for Pets – September 17th

– **Please RSVP to Arlene at 977-0391 or 533-5566**

Just a reminder that the 5th Annual Vettes for Pets is just a few weekends away. You don't have to have a Corvette to enter – just come out & have fun & help support the St. Clair County Animal Shelter. Invite your families & friends as well.

Entry Fee (cash or check made out to ASPCI for **\$30 per car plus** one or more items on the following wish-list). The entry fee gets you a reserved seat at Sammie's for Dinner, a spot at the Drive-In for the Movies, and entered for a few 'special' drawings.

5pm Pull into the St. Clair County Animal Shelter in Pell City, deliver your check & donation items (Arlene will be at door). Get door prize tickets & pass for drive-in & proceed to dinner location (next door). Enjoy dinner (on your own) at Sammie's Touch 'N Go – next door to the Animal Shelter & on edge of St. Clair County Airport. (Steaks, bar, seafood, Cajun)
6:30pm Leave for caravan to Argo Drive-In (Hwy 231N to 174W to 11S) – ride is about 45 minutes.
8:00pm Movie starts at Argo Drive-In. Bring your chairs, blankets, coolers, bug spray – and enjoy the evening.



Shelter Wish List:

Used Towels or Blankets
Clorox, Pine-Sol, Dish Detergent
Copy Paper for printer
Purina Puppy or Kitten Chow
Paper Towels, Toilet Paper
Garbage Bags (large heavy duty preferred)

Directions to the shelter can be found at: www.stclairshelter.petfinder.com.

September 17th Family Day w/ the 117th Air National Guard

Come join in celebrating the 117th Air National Guard's Family Day on September 17th from 10am to 3pm – lunch will be free. Fifteen MACC members signed up to attend; you can join the list right up to the last minute. Just let Hoke Graham (email: hokegraham@hotmail.com or call 629-6667 – home#) know if you're coming – give him your name and year/color of car.

If you're not on the list, you won't get into the National Guard complex.

On display will be fighter jets and stratotankers along with the Corvettes and Mustang Club. Try to arrive at the complex **no later than 10am.**

History and information about the 117th is found on the following web-site:

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/usaf/117arw.htm>

Directions: Take the TALLAPOOSA ST. Exit off of I59 (Exit 128). Head North toward Tarrant on AL79. Take a right at the 1st Light – onto East Lake Blvd. Continue about 2 miles and the Air National Guard will be on your right....address is 5401 East Lake Blvd.



Editor's Note: by Beth Carter

Very special thanks to Chuck Bistline and all the folks of Playground Corvette Club for their generous hospitality during Vetts at the Village. We have lots of pictures that will be on the website soon. It was a very fun time and a great show. The next fun filled event is Vette Fest in Gatlinburg, September 23 – 25th. Our theme for this year's masquerade party is "MACC's Car Wash." Thanks to Jane Mantooth for this great idea!! **Please let me know ASAP if you plan to attend.** We are working on a t-shirt as part of the costume and will be ordering them soon.

Minutes of the August Meeting by Cathy Crapet

The August 21, 2005, meeting of the Mid Alabama Corvette Club was held at The Neighborhood Sports Grill in Trussville. The meeting was called to order by Arlene Johnson, president. There were 43 members and 1 guest present.

Cathy Crapet, Secretary, discussed the minutes of the June and July meetings. Ronnie Jones made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the MACC June and July newsletters. John Caiola seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Bill Ringler. Nick Klosowsky made a motion to accept the report as presented. David Johnson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Bill also discussed status of the by the Internal Revenue Service.

Arlene discussed the purchase of a trailer in which the club's belongings could be stored. Ronnie Jones will continue to investigate the cost and purchase of a trailer.

Jim Willis gave the NCM report. He informed members that a National Corvette Museum T-shirt will be given to all members who join the museum. Since MACC is a member of the museum, our members will receive a 25% discount on membership. Jim also discussed the Petit LeMans and upcoming NCM events.

Additional business included a report by Fred Atkins on the NCRS. Arlene discussed the need for each member to complete the show questionnaire she prepared. The results of the questionnaire will enable the club to plan for the upcoming year. Terry Mathews gave a membership report and introduced new members and guests.

Arlene reported that a nominating committee for 2006 MACC officers has been established. Board members appointed to the committee are Cathy Crapet and Rob Conrad. Committee members-at-large are Jim Willis, Kathie Jones, and Terry Mathews. The committee should be prepared with a slate of officers for the October meeting with elections at the November meeting.

Summer car show reports were given. David Carter presented a plaque to the club which was awarded for the largest club participation at the Varsity Show in Atlanta. Jim Lewis reported on "Vettes at the Village." David and Beth Carter donated stuffed animals to the show. MACC had 12 cars attend and won 3 of the 6 top prizes.

Suzan Touchton, Social Chair, discussed upcoming events. She presented information on a possible MACC cruise for January or February, 2006. Members should refer to the monthly newsletter for additional information on MACC's upcoming events.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Membership News by Sharon Mathews

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Mike and Brenda Akridge 8342 Clayton Road Springville, Alabama 35146 Employer: Southern Company E-mail: MAKRID@bellsouth.net Phone: 683-0610 home; 901-4281 cell 1972 Red Coupe	David Noe 219 Jonesview Road Talladega, Alabama 35160 Self Employed e-mail: none 256-268-0831 home, 256-335-5144 work 1961 Blue & White Convertible 1988 Blue Convertible
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WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO WELCOME BACK OLD AND DEAR FRIENDS:

Steven and LaDona Pope 8497 Shady Trail Bessemer, Alabama 35022 E-mail: Steven 1FUNC5@bellsouth.net E-mail: Ladona Lkpope@bellsouth.net Phone: 424-1475 home, Steven 317-9973, 2004 Silver Convertible	Tim & Kim Ransom 2004 Jackson Lane Helena, AL 35080 e-mail: unknown Phone: 621-6076 home, Tim: 369-5447 2003 Yellow Z-06
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Please change Don and Linda Kimbrough's member information to:
683 Founders Park Drive West
Birmingham, AL 35226
823-9902 donkimbrough@bellsouth.net

Do you know of a member that we have not seen in the past few months? If so, please give them a call and urge them to join us at the next function. All of our members are important to us and, the more the merrier. Please ask a Corvette enthusiast to join us anytime.

Member Photos on Website

Help us get your and your car's photo on our website. If you have a picture please e-mail it to me at mathewssharon@yahoo.com if not, just ask at the next meeting or cruise in, we will have a camera there and will get you a great photo.

Birthdays and Anniversaries and Member Occupations and Businesses

Our above lists are still incomplete, but I will be e-mailing a copy to each of you shortly. If you want any information added or changed, please let me know.

Up Coming Social Events by Suzan Touchton

Fall is around the corner and we have a busy line up of events! Look at your events calendar to see what is happening each weekend. We have something every Saturday leading up to the Vette Fest in Gatlinburg. It's not too late if you would like to go with us.

We have two club events coming up in the next two months. Our annual Vettes for Pets will be a fun evening with dinner and a drive-in movie on September 17th. On October 16th we will have dinner at Lloyds and then tour the Haunted House called ATROX in Leeds. ATROX is run by a charitable organization supporting agencies such as Kids One Transport, Special Olympics, Animal Shelter, and Hands-On Birmingham.

For those interested in drag racing there will be a Corvette Show and Drag in Chattanooga on Sunday September 18th. For info contact Richard Williams at (706)935-2723.

The Vettes Against Breast Cancer event will be October 8th in Atlanta. I will give you more information as I get it. Their website is at csafoundation.org. They are to have info posted September 1st. Those that went last year had a ball. This is a chance to get the cars on the Atlanta track and then caravan to the State Capital.

I have heard from a few of you about the Caribbean Cruise for early February. If you would like more information please call me right away or e-mail at stouchton@bellsouth.net. This is a great 7 day trip with stops at Cozumel, Belize City, Roatan Bay Islands, Honduras and Playa Del Carmen.

The rates are as follows:

Inside cabin	\$549 plus \$200 for port charges and taxes
Ocean view cabin	\$589 plus \$200 for port charges and taxes
Ocean view w/balcony	\$769 plus \$200 for port charges and taxes

These rates are for excellent levels on the ship. Think this will be a great time for MACC. Hope you will think about joining us.

Check the events calendar. Lots of good times in the works.

Thursday Night Cruise In by Bill Ringler

The next Thursday Night Cruise In is planned for Thursday, October 6, at Tip Top Café located at Bluff Park Village. Tip Top's menu consists of hamburgers, hotdogs, homemade desserts and beautiful sunsets. In addition to a great meal we will also be taking a scenic cruise along Shades Mountain. More information and directions will be emailed at a later time.



NATIONAL CORVETTE MUSEUM NEWS

By Jim Willis

Corvette Plant's Customer Assistant Gets New Responsibilities

Kevin Tarrence is taking on new responsibilities and assuming the title of Vehicle Promotion and Assistance Contact (VPAC) for the Corvette Assembly Plant.

As VPAC, Kevin will be able to assist non-GM employees and referral customers with vehicle promotions, sales referrals, and customer issues and concerns. Once a customer has exhausted solutions to a vehicle concern with the dealership and the product division, VPACs can be contacted to assist employees or referred customers in the resolution of their vehicle issue or concern. Before, if a customer had an issue with their car, Kevin would have to refer them to customer assistance. Now he can help diagnose their problems and assist them with resolving their issues. Kevin says he really enjoys giving private tours and getting to meet people from all over the U.S. He likes to see how the people on the line interact with the customers.

Breaking the R8C Museum Delivery Record

The NCM will break the record for Museum Deliveries this year!

Since the program's initiation in 1996, 2003 had yielded the highest number totaling 741 deliveries. Over 719 Museum deliveries have already taken place this year and the NCM expects to make at least 50 deliveries in August - taking this year to the top. "It is a real pleasure to meet the new Corvette owners taking delivery at the Museum each day and the delivery experience is just the beginning of the journey," – R8C Delivery Program Manager, Gary Cockriel. "We get to spend quality time with the owners during the hands-on process and the private tours, and we continue to hear how important taking delivery at the Museum is." If you are considering ordering a new Corvette, find out more about taking delivery at the Museum through the R8C Museum Delivery – "Option R8C". A one-year individual membership to the Museum, hands-on introduction with a delivery team member, special plaque and decal and much more are part of the experience. Museum deliveries are also viewed world-wide via the NCM's webcams available at:

<http://www.corvettemuseum.com/webcam/index.shtml>

PAINT FINISHES

There Are Few Things More Beautiful Than a "Shiny Corvette"

By: Dennis Lyons, Impatient Creations, Inc.

So why does one Corvette shine better than the one next to it? Does one owner put more wax on their car, only hand wash, only driven on sunny days, or maybe a custom paint job? If I spend more money will it shine more? Perhaps, but not always. Shine is a factor of the finish and fit on your Corvette. The fit is just what you would expect, the doors, hood and all hinged panels fit with the same gap and do not scrape when used. The finish you see is the paint and body work. Painting gets the credit, but a great finish is a result of excellent body work and preparation. It is many hours of work before and after painting that you admire. When you are one foot from the surface and gaze into the paint, what do you see? Can you see around the pearls and metallic or do you see the base coat just lying there under the clear coat? Or maybe you see micro sand scratches; you cannot feel them, but you can see them? Or is the paint so "deep" that you cannot see the bottom? When you look down the side of your car do you see one reflection or does it move around?

If you have a pre80's Corvette with original paint it probably is lacquer paint. Lacquer was the smoothest, flattest, shiniest paint. Unfortunately, its durability was short. Consequently, the owners would cut and buff whenever it would dull a little resulting in very thin paint. Often the paint was rubbed through on edges and on top surfaces that received a lot of sun. Then came enamels the rock hard Imron that are still available.

Today, the desired paints are urethane based. These are very durable and with some finesse can be made to shine look like new lacquer paint just cut and buffed. Regardless of the paint manufacturer the clear coat contains the majority of the

UV blockers, which is another ingredient that lacquer and enamel lacked. The sun's rays are harmful to paint and can fade and make them chalky without these blockers. We recommend all paint jobs have clear coats applied for durability.

If clear is good, is clearer better, no not necessarily. Any paint can have too much build up or mils in thickness which makes the paint susceptible to cracking within months. The correct answer is just enough to make your Corvette have the depth that will bring out the lines of the car. We spend several hours after the car is painted to get the paint to have a flawless appearance. That is what makes one "shine". Most shops do not want to invest the time to bring the paint to this level. The slicker and flatter the paint is the more flaws that will show. It is also risky to color sand and buff a brand new paint job. Trying to achieve that "flawless appearance" may make the shop go too far and have to repaint a panel. This is the reason the factory cannot stand a "no orange peel finish". I know that most of you believe you have a no orange peel finish from the factory, but when you pull up next to one that really has no orange peel, you will see the difference. The investment to finish a car like that adds several hundred dollars to the cost.

Probably the most overlooked point of appearance is the "fit." When all of the panels line up the car has a better appearance because the finish is allowed to show off the lines of the entire car not just a single panel. Often, the doors and hood can be adjusted to remove unsightly, uneven gaps, doors that scrape the jambs or headlight doors that look crooked. However, sometimes it requires some body and paint work, hinge rebuilding or replacement. Several Corvettes doors we have had to cut and fiberglass them in the correct position to get the proper fit.

Regardless of the finish you have, you want to maintain it. Washing, waxing and buffing are necessary ingredients to a beautiful finish. If your finish is full of swirl marks and oxidized paint you want to begin with buffing either by hand or machine. If you buff with a machine be careful you do not remove too much paint. Finish off with a fine glazing compound to get as swirl free as you can, then go to swirl remover and wax. After you have buffed and are ready to maintain your finish, wash your car with car soap so it will not remove the wax you have labored to apply. If your finish has a lot of swirl marks, use a swirl remover before waxing. Wax your car with a quality wax and there are several good brands on the market. We prefer a carnauba wax, but there are other waxes/coatings available, follow directions. After you have achieved the shine, you need to stay away from washing and begin "spray and shine", again there are several good brands on the market and follow directions. These products will help maintain your shine, but if you run through a car wash you may have to start all over. It takes effort to maintain a great shine and we admire the finish that is slick and deep. May you always be recognized for the shiniest car!

After Katrina

Comment by Arlene Johnson

It's been very hard to view the many reports of destruction in neighboring states. Almost immediately I started receiving notes from club members making suggestions and taking action and received the largest response to any email all year when asking for the Red Cross donation. Over 30 households votes YES to send \$1,000 to the Hurricane Relief efforts. Also, many of you helped Sharon & Terry load up a van for their friends and family this past weekend – other trips will be needed. Volunteers and employees from the St. Clair County Animal Shelter are in Picayune, MS this week rescuing their stray animals – your donations for Vettes for Pets will help care for displaced animals and send extra food to areas in MS. My own family from out of town and friends from NJ have all called in the past week trying to learn what is most important so they can help. *How does one answer what is most important to a person who has lost everything?* I'm sure if I asked each and every person from LA or MS the answers would be closely connected with hope, faith, friends and family, health, and belonging. Each of our communities will take care of people displaced from the hurricane – it's now our job to help them belong and regain their hope and faith.

2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Club events/meetings are noted in bold print)



- September 17th **Vettes for Pets/Argo Drive-In/
5:00 pm Dinner
8:00 pm Movie (Contact Arlene Johnson for RSVP)**
- September 17th **National Guard Show, Birmingham
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
(Contact Hoke Graham – must be on list if you are attending)**
- September 18th Mountain City Corvette Association
Corvette Show & Drag
Chattanooga, TN (Contact Richard Williams 706-935-2723)
- September 20th 6:30pm dinner; 7:30pm meeting – meeting room available
MACC Monthly meeting – Fish Market, Hwy. 280 – Greystone area**
- September 22nd-
25th **Vette Fest/East Tennessee Corvette Club
Gatlinburg, TN/Park Vista Hotel call 865-436-9211 for reservations**
- September 29th Chevy presents Petit Le Mans/Road Atlanta
- October 16th **5:30 pm MACC Dinner Meeting at Lloyds Restaurant (on Hwy 280)
7:00 pm Cruise to Leeds - ATROX (Haunted House)**
- October 22nd Emerald Coast Show, Panama City, FL
- November 20th **MACC Meeting & Nomination of 2006 Officers
2:00 – 4:00 pm
Neighborhood Sports Grill, Trussville**
- December 2nd **Christmas Party, Inverness Country Club (contact Bob Moreno)**

MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS MAY CHANGE DUE TO CONFLICTS WITH OTHER EVENTS. WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED.

MACC Monthly Meeting
Tuesday September 20
Fish Market Restaurant
5407 Highway 280 (Greystone Area)
205-980-8600
6:30 pm Dinner, 7:30 pm Meeting

